

## REMARKS

Applicant requests reconsideration and further examination of this application.

Applicant appreciates the indication that Claims 9, 12, 15, 16, and 19 are allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, Applicant has amended the limitations of original Claims 1 and 8 into Claim 9; the limitations of original Claim 11 into Claim 12 and Claim 15; the limitations of original Claim 11 and 13 into Claim 16; and the limitations of original Claims 11 and 18 into Claim 19. Claims 2, 5, 6, and 10 have been amended to be dependent upon Claim 9; Claims 13 and 14 have been amended to be dependent upon Claim 12, and Claim 17 has been amended to be dependent upon Claim 15. Also, Claims 3 and 4 remain upon Claim 2, and Claim 7 remains dependent upon Claim 6. Claims 1, 8, 11, 18, and 20 - 22 have been canceled. Therefore, Claims 2 - 7, 9, 10, 12 - 17, and 19 are now allowable.

Applicant has added new Claims 23 - 28, which are all dependent claims:

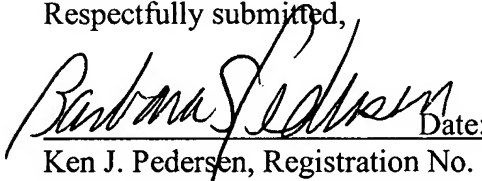
Claim 23 further describes the cutting mechanism of Claim 4; Claims 24, 25, and 26 add a cap, a rounded cap, and a rotating cap, above the blades of Claim 4, respectively. Claims 27, 28, and 29 add a cap, a rounded cap, and a rotating cap, above the disks of Claim 19, respectively. These claims are supported in the specification, for example, in Figures 7 and 8 and on page 11 at lines 1 - 7, so no new matter has been added. Applicant is adding to page 11 that Figures 7 and 8 illustrate rounded caps 56, as literal support for the preferred cap shape clearly shown in the Figures. Again, no new matter is being added.

Claim 30 is dependent upon Claim 9, and adds that the counter rotating rollers each have a member adapted to engage and pull the leafy portion, which comprises an elastomeric finger strip having a plurality of protruding finger-like appendages extending outwardly from and perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the roller, the finger-like appendages of each roller intermeshing and cooperating with the finger-like appendages on the adjacent roller in said pair of rollers. This or similar language is in original Claim

15, and supported in the Figures and original Description, so no new matter is being added.

Applicant now believes that Claims 2-7, 9, 10, 12-17, 19, and 23- 30, and the application, are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests the same.

Respectfully submitted,

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